

## Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 SCEM-02 EB-11 INT-08

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /187 W  
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R 291130Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5683

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1723

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, FR, DM, IS, SA, DM

SUBJECT: DAHOMEAN FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

1. DAHO-EXPRESS NOVEMBER 24 PUBLISHED INTERESTING INTERVIEW WITH MINFORAFF ALLADAYE ON HIS RECENT PARTICIPATION IN PARIS FRANCOPHONE STATES CONFERENCE AND ON HIS ATTENDANCE AT EXTRAORDINARY OAU MEETING HELD IN ADDIS ABABA ON MIDDLE EAST. FIRST TAKING UP QUESTION OF PARIS CONFERENCE, AT WHICH HE REPRESENTED CHIEF OF STATE, ALLADAYE TOOK MODERATE BUT FIRM NATIONALISTIC VIEW. SAID PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO FIND WAYS OF RESTRUCTURING FORMER COLONIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANCE, RECOGNIZING THAT FRANCE'S RELATIONS ARE NOW PRIMARILY WITH EUROPE, AND AFRICAN STATES MUST, PER FORCE, REMAIN AFRICAN WITH THEIR FUTURES LINKED IN AFRICA. ASSERTING THAT EUROPEAN CURRENCY WOULD  
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BE CREATED CIRCA 1980, ALLADAYE CONTENDED THIS MUST BRING

PROFOUND CHANGES IN FRANC ZONE AS ONE NOW KNOWS IT. IT WAS WITH THIS CHANGE IN MIND THAT MEETING WAS HELD TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO WIND UP REMNANTS OF COLONIALISM, THE FORMIN CLAIMED. CONFERENCE ATMOSPHERE WAS "VERY GOOD," HE SAID. ON ALL SIDES, THERE WAS "TOTAL COMPREHENSION OF PROBLEM." THIS LEADS ONE TO HOPE, ALLADAYE CONCLUDED, ALL WILL GO WELL.

2. ON ADDIS CONFERENCE, ALLADAYE TOOK MORE STRIDENT STANCE. CLAIMED, AS RESULT OF CONFERENCE, "WE CAN NOW STATE, WITH SUPPORTING EVIDENCE, THAT ISRAEL HAS ALLIED HERSELF WITH PORTUGAL AND SOUTH AFRICA WHO HAVE GIVEN HER IMPORTANT ASSISTANCE." DURING THE CONFLICT, ALLADAYE CLAIMED, SOUTH AFRICA SENT MILITARY MATERIAL, PARTICULARLY WARPLANES, TO ISRAEL. PORTUGAL PUT BASES AT ISRAEL'S DISPOSITION. HE THEN REVEALED THAT SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAD ASKED ARAB BROTHER STATES, WHO HAVE MEANS, TO STUDY MEASURES THEY COULD TAKE TO HELP AFRICAN STATES COPE WITH "CONSEQUENCE" THEIR BREAK WITH ISRAEL AND THEIR EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY WITH ARABS.

3. ALLADAYE WAS THEN ASKED ABOUT CHANCES OF USE OF OIL EMBARGO AS WEAPON AGAINST PORTUGAL AND SOUTH AFRICA. HE REPLIED: "WE WOULD LIKE SUCH AN ACTION TO BE TAKEN, NOT JUST AGAINST THESE STATES, BUT ALSO AGAINST THOSE WHO SUPPORT THEM."

ON THE OBVIOUS QUESTION OF WHY IT HAD TAKEN SO LONG TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, ALLADAYE DODGED A BIT. FINALLY, HE SAID: "AS SERIOUS AND MATURE PEOPLE, WE HAD TO ASSURE OUSELVES THAT ISRAEL PERSISTED IN HER ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF TERRITORY TAKEN BY FORCE AND MADE NO EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINIANS AS AGREED AT THE UN." HE TEN ASSERTED: "WE HAVE STATED FOR SOMETIME THAT THEREIS NOT THE LEAST GOOD FAITH ON THE ISRAELI SIDE." DISPLAYING UNUSUAL POWERS OF IMAGINATION, ALLADAYE SUGGESTED THAT DECISION TO BREAK WITH ISRAEL "HAD TO BE DEFERRED SO THAT SECURITY MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN" IN DAHOMEY. THESE WERE NEEDED, HE DARKLY ASSERTED, BECAUSE "THESE ISRAELIS, KNOWN FOR THEIR ACTIVISM, HAD HELD BASTIONS EVEN IN OUR COUNTRY." IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHAT OR

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WHERE THESE "BASTIONS" MIGHT BE.

4. COMMENT: RESTRAINT WITH WHICH ALLADAYE HANDLED PARIS CONFERENCE, ABOUT WHICH MRGD HAD SERIOUS RESERVATIONS, IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF PERCEPTIBLE EFFORT OVER PAST FEW MONTHS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH FRENCH AFTER CLEARLY ESTABLISHING GOVERNMENT'S INDEPENDENCE AND AFRICAN NATIONALIST CREDENTIALS THROUGH EARLIER HARSH VERBAL ATTACKS ON

FRENCH. IN CONTRAST, FANCIFUL, PROPAGANDIST TREATMENT  
OF MIDDLE EAST IS IN KEEPING WITH POLICY OF DEMONSTRATING  
SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICA AND THIRD WORLD. IN COMMENTING  
PRIVATELY ON BREAK WITH ISRAEL, ACTING SEC GEN OF MINFORAFF,  
ANTOINE ANDRE, SAID IT BECAME INEVITABLE WHEN ANTI-ISRAELI  
RESOLUTION WAS PASSED BY NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS.  
IN FUTURE, HE STATED, DAHOMEY'S FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS  
WILL FIRST BE BASED ON SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER AFRICANS AND  
THEN ON "NON-ALIGNED WORLD."  
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## Message Attributes

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